

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- Claim 1. (Original) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, comprising:
a random (conjugated diene_x/monovinylarene_y)_n block, wherein x is about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, y is from about 90 wt% to about 97.5 wt%, and x + y is about 97.5 wt% to 100 wt%; and
a (conjugated diene)_n block;
wherein n is from about 20 wt% to about 30 wt%, m is from about 70 wt% to about 80 wt%, and m + n is from about 90 wt% to 100 wt%.
- Claim 2. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, wherein x is about 5 wt% to about 10 wt%.
- Claim 3. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, wherein y is about 90 wt% to about 95 wt%.
- Claim 4. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, wherein n is about 25 wt% and m is about 75 wt%.
- Claim 5. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, wherein the T_g is at least about 10°C less than the T_g of a reference polymer differing only in x being about 0 wt% and y being about 100 wt%.
- Claim 6. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 5, wherein the T_g is at least about 20°C less than the T_g of the reference polymer.
- Claim 7. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 6, wherein the T_g is at least about 30°C less than the T_g of the reference polymer.
- Claim 8. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, further comprising a monovinylarene/conjugated diene block.

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Claim 9. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1, further comprising a monovinylarene block.

Claim 10. (Original) An article, comprising the monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 1.

Claim 11. (Original) The article of claim 10, wherein the article is a shrink film.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer comprising:

(a) charging a monovinylarene monomer, a conjugated diene monomer, an initiator, and a randomizer, allowing polymerizing to occur, to produce a random (conjugated diene_x/monovinylarene_y)_m block, wherein x is about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, y is from about 90 wt% to about 97.5 wt%, x + y is about 97.5 wt% to 100 wt%, and m is from about 70 wt% to about 80 wt%;

(b) charging a monovinylarene monomer, a conjugated diene monomer, and an initiator, allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a monovinylarene/conjugated diene block;

(c) charging a conjugated diene monomer, and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a (conjugated diene)_n block, wherein n is from about 20 wt% to about 30 wt% and m + n is from about 90 wt% to 100 wt%; and

(d) charging the reaction mixture with a coupling agent, to form monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer.

Claims 13-14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Original) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, produced according to the method of claim 12.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer comprising:

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(a) charging an initiator and a monovinylarene monomer and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a monovinylarene block;

(b) charging a randomizer, an initiator, and a conjugated diene/monovinylarene monomer mixture and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a random (conjugated diene_x/monovinylarene_y)_m block, wherein x is about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, y is from about 90 wt% to about 97.5 wt%, x + y is about 97.5 wt% to 100 wt%, and m is from about 70 wt% to about 80 wt%;

(c) charging a conjugated diene monomer and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a conjugated diene block;

(d) charging a randomizer, an initiator, and a conjugated diene/monovinylarene monomer mixture and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a random (conjugated diene_{x1}/monovinylarene_{y1})_{m1} block, wherein x1 is about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, y1 is from about 90 wt% to about 97.5 wt%, x1 + y1 is about 97.5 wt% to 100 wt%, and m1 is from about 70 wt% to about 80 wt%;

(e) charging a conjugated diene monomer and allowing polymerization to occur, to produce a conjugated diene block; and

(f) charging the reaction mixture with a coupling agent, to form monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer.

Claim 17. (Original) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, produced according to the method of claim 16.

Claim 18. (Original) A method of fabricating an article, comprising:

forming a monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer into the article, wherein the monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer comprises (i) a random (conjugated diene_x/monovinylarene_y)_m block, wherein x is about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, y is from about 90 wt% to about 97.5 wt%, and x + y is about 97.5 wt% to 100 wt%; and (ii) a (conjugated diene)_n block; wherein n is from about 20 wt% to about 30 wt%, m is from about 70 wt% to about 80 wt%, and m + n is from about 90 wt% to 100 wt%.

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Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein forming comprises sheet extrusion, thermoforming, injection molding, blow molding, film blowing, or film casting.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, comprising the structure:

(B/S)-B-CA,

wherein (B/S) is a random monovinylarene/conjugated diene block; B is a conjugated diene block; CA is a coupling agent residue; and - is a covalent linkage between blocks, and wherein the monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer further comprises a second structure selected from the group consisting of (a) a (B/S) block covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure, (b) a (B/S)-(B/S)-B structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure, (c) a (B/S)-B structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure, and (d) an S-(B/S)-B- structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure, wherein S is a monovinylarene block.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the second structure is a second (B/S) block covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the second structure is a second (B/S)-(B/S)-B structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the second structure is a second (B/S)-B structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the second structure is a second S-(B/S)-B- structure covalently linked to the (B/S) block of the (B/S)-B-CA structure, wherein S is a monovinylarene block.

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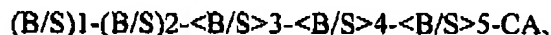
Claim 25. (Previously presented) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, comprising the structure:



wherein $\langle B/S \rangle$ is a tapered monovinylarene/conjugated diene block; $\langle B/S \rangle 2$ has a conjugated diene content from about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%, $\langle B/S \rangle 3$, $\langle B/S \rangle 4$, and $\langle B/S \rangle 5$ have a conjugated diene content from about 30 wt% to about 70 wt%, and CA is a coupling agent residue.

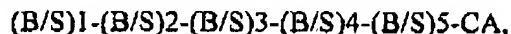
Claim 26. (Original) The monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer of claim 25, further comprising a $\langle B/S \rangle 1$ block covalently linked to the $\langle B/S \rangle 2$ block of the $\langle B/S \rangle 2 - \langle B/S \rangle 3 - \langle B/S \rangle 4 - \langle B/S \rangle 5 - CA$ structure, wherein $\langle B/S \rangle 1$ has a conjugated diene content from about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%.

Claim 27. (Original) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, comprising the structure:



wherein (B/S) is a random monovinylarene/conjugated diene block; $\langle B/S \rangle$ is a tapered monovinylarene/conjugated diene block; CA is a coupling agent residue; - is a covalent linkage between blocks; (B/S)1 and (B/S)2 each have a conjugated diene content from about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%; and $\langle B/S \rangle 3$, $\langle B/S \rangle 4$, and $\langle B/S \rangle 5$ each have a conjugated diene content from about 30 wt% to about 70 wt%.

Claim 28. (Original) A monovinylarene/conjugated diene block copolymer, comprising the structure:



wherein (B/S) is a random monovinylarene/conjugated diene block; CA is a coupling agent residue; - is a covalent linkage between blocks; (B/S)1 and (B/S)2 each have a conjugated diene content from about 2.5 wt% to about 10 wt%; and (B/S)3, (B/S)4, and (B/S)5 each have a conjugated diene content from about 30 wt% to about 70 wt%.